

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 24, 1846.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. FAIRFIELD made the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. No. 91.]

*The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the memorial of the forward officers of the late exploring expedition, ask leave to submit the following report:*

That the forward officers, to wit: gunners, boatswains, carpenters, and sail-makers, of the late exploring expedition, being eleven in number, in their memorial represent that they were ordered to the different vessels of said expedition, joined the same, and sailed from Norfolk on the 18th day of August, 1838, "with the full understanding and expectation that they were to be allowed sufficient extra compensation to enable them to incur the expense of the large outfit and expenditure which they were compelled to incur to enable them to prepare for the different climates they had to visit, and to support themselves on board ship, on an expensive cruise, and their families on shore."

They further represent, that on the first day of September, 1838, while on said cruise, the following order was issued by Commander Wilkes, to wit:

"The forward officers of this ship having applied to me for extra pay while engaged in the exploring expedition, and in consideration of their having arduous duty to perform not strictly in the line of their particular duties, also of their being required to keep a regular watch on the fore-castle, and having incurred extra expenses preparing for the various climates to which they may be exposed during the cruise, the purser of this ship will credit the carpenter, boatswain, gunner, and sail-maker, or those duly appointed to act as such, and performing all duties that may be required, extra pay, at the rate of \$250 per annum, being the pay allowed to them on board seventy fours; subject, however, to the approval of the Navy Department, or until revoked by my order.

"CHARLES WILKES,

*"Commanding Exploring Expedition."*

They state further, that in pursuance of this order they were credited, on the rolls and books of the several vessels to which they were attached, the extra pay referred to, which was paid to them from time to time, as required for their necessary expenses; but that after their return from said ex-

petition, on a settlement of their accounts, the Fourth Auditor of the Treasury refused to allow said extra pay without authority from Congress for that purpose, whereby they have been subjected to great inconvenience and trouble.

The material facts in the foregoing are fully substantiated by communications from A. O. Dayton, esq., Fourth Auditor of the Treasury, and Commander Wilkes, the latter of whom adds: "I view this case as a particularly hard one, not only from the fact that they are the only officers (except myself) who have been refused extra pay, but that, throughout the whole cruise, they performed their duties and suffered the privations and fatigues willingly, and with a spirit that claimed the admiration of all; and I feel it my duty to recommend them as highly deserving of the compensation they have petitioned for."

Deeming the case a proper one for relief, the committee herewith report a bill for that purpose.

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom were referred the memorial of the forward officers of the late exploring expedition, has honor to submit the following report:

"That the forward officers, to wit: gunners, carpenters, and sail-makers, of the late exploring expedition, being eleven in number, in their memorial represent that they were ordered to the different vessels of said expedition, joined the same, and sailed from Norfolk on the 13th day of August, 1838, with the full understanding and expectation that they were to be allowed sufficient extra compensation to enable them to incur the expense of the late cruise and expenditures which they were compelled to incur to enable them to prepare for the different climates they had to visit, and to support themselves on board ship on an expensive cruise, and their families on shore."

The further represent, that on the first day of September, 1838, while on said cruise, the following order was issued by Commander Wilkes to wit: "The forward officers of this ship having applied to me for extra pay while engaged in the exploring expedition, and in consideration of their having been ordered to perform not strictly in the line of their particular duties, and of their being required to keep a regular watch on the forecastle, and having incurred extra expenses preparing for the various climates to which they may be exposed during the cruise, the pay of this ship will credit the carpenter, boatswain, gunner, and sail-maker, or those duly appointed to act as such, and performing all duties that may be required, extra pay, at the rate of \$250 per annum, being the pay allowed to them on board the seventy-four, subject, however, to the approval of the Navy Department, or until revoked by my order."

CHARLES WILKES,

Commanding Exploring Expedition.

They state further, that in pursuance of this order they were credited on the rolls and books of the several vessels to which they were attached, the extra pay referred to, which was paid to them from time to time as required for their necessary expenses; but that after their return from said ex-

clusive & honest price.